GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:64
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2004
DROUGHT AFFECTED STATES
Purandeswari Smt. Daggubati;Vasava Shri Mansukhbhai D.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Multi Disciplinary Team of the Union Government has recently visited various States to assess the impact of drought;

(b) if so, the details and findings thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether the Union Government has received proposals from various States requesting additional assistance and foodgrains to combat drought situation;

(d) if so, the details thereof including assistance and foodgrains sought by each State for the purpose;

(e) the actual amount released and foodgrains provided to each State;

(f) whether the Union Government has also given any special package to the affected States;

(g) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(h) the details of the strategy chalked out by the Government to deal with the drought situation in future?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (h): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (h) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 64 DUE FOR REPLY ON 6TH DECEMBER, 2004.

(a) to (h): Following a long break in the South-West Monsoon during the month of July, 2004, there was apprehension of severe drought in a number of States. The situation was very closely monitored in these States and a Team of Senior Officials of the Ministry of Agriculture, headed by the Union Agriculture Secretary, visited Gujarat, Maharashtra and Rajasthan during the month.

Based on the results of constant monitoring and visits of the Agriculture Secretary, foodgrains allocations and advance release of Central share of the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) of these States have been made from time to time as per the following details.

Name of the State	Release of Central Share of CRF in Advance (Rs. in cr.)	Foodgrains allocated (In lakh MTs)
Andhra Pradesh	45.14	-
Bihar	-	2.00
Gujarat	73.57	-
Haryana	37.06	-
Jharkhand	-	0.67
Madhya Pradesh	28.55	0.50
Maharashtra	71.65	-
Rajasthan	94.35	2.00
Tamil Nadu	-	1.50
Punjab	55.93	-
Uttar Pradesh	66.68	-
Total	472.93	6.67

Subsequently, there was significant improvement in the situation in many States, due to resumption of rains in August. After undertaking detailed surveys of the impact of July failure of rains, State Governments submitted Memoranda for assistance from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) on different dates.

Details of assistance demanded, amounts approved and assistance so far released from the NCCF after adjusting available balances in the CRF and information about allocation of foodgrains are given below:

(Rs. in crores)

State	Foodgrains (Lakh MTs) sought	Assistance approved	Amount Released	Demand Allocation
Bihar	2312.48	162.15	162.15	12.93# 2.00
Tamil Nadu	1910.58	156.84	117.27	5.40# 1.50
Uttar Pradesh	7226.10	360.94	192.10	- -

Demand for whole year; allocations for shorter durations.

For the following States, consideration of the High Level Committee (HLC) is expected very shortly:-

State	Amount Demanded (Rs. in crores)	Foodgrains Demanded (Lakh MTs)
Andhra Pradesh	1199.68	22.50
Jharkhand	928.12	-
Madhya Pradesh	724.88	7.64

Central Teams are being deputed to the following States which have recently submitted their Memoranda as per the following details:

State	Amount Demanded (Rs. in crores)	Foodgrains Demanded (Lakh MTs)
Rajasthan	2378.64	28.80
Karnataka	1147.71	4.53
Chhattisgarh	604.96	7.20

Punjab Government had submitted a combined Memorandum seeking Rs.5100.31 crores for flood and drought without giving specific damage caused by the two calamities separately. Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Agriculture have advised the State Government to submit separate Memoranda for the two calamities giving specific details of assistance required.

Rajasthan was also provided facility of transport of drinking water by rail in some seriously deficit areas till the middle of August when there was substantial improvement in the situation.

While a number of programmes and schemes seek to provide long term solutions to reduce vulnerability to droughts through irrigation, water conservation including watershed development, droughts as natural calamities are recurrent in nature needing relief measures as and when their severity requires such interventions.